

JORDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKES A smart decision TO GO WATER-WISE.



Challenge

Caring for the school grounds that play host to more than 76,000 students along the Wasatch Front is a daunting task. Keeping those 900 acres of landscaping looking healthy for those students gets only more challenging with time. During the 1998-1999 school year, Jordan School District's 70 schools used 843 million gallons of water for landscaping. Fortunately, they recognized the need to conserve.

Solution

The District first focused on educating each school's maintenance person and principal about water conservation techniques. They then made a wise investment into irrigation equipment, set up to communicate wirelessly with a weather service that figures precisely how much water each school's landscape needs on a given day, helping to avoid over-watering. Incentives were given to schools as they competed against one another to see who could conserve the most water.

Results

Even after adding 16 new buildings, the District was able to save 34 million gallons of water in 2003-2004, one of the drought's driest years.

HOMEOWNER SETS A water-wise STANDARD.



Challenge

Planning the landscape for a new home can be hard work. When North Logan City resident David Hole prepared for his new landscape, he wanted to implement an attractive yard that would save water and money. Having moved from a home with traditional grass and shrubs, David understood the high costs of watering during the summer months.

Solution

David began learning of alternative turf types by looking to Utah State University, where testing was being done on different water-wise species. After learning about some options, David decided that Buffalograss would best fit his large landscape because it is highly drought tolerant and it doesn't require extensive maintenance. He also visited with the Utah Native Plant Society to find tips on using attractive, water-wise plants around his home.

Results

Once the landscaping was complete, David realized immediately that his new, larger yard was using a lot less water than his smaller yard had at his previous house. In discussing water usage with his neighbors, David found they were spending about \$300 per month on their water bills compared to his \$75. David now has passers-by who ask questions about how they can implement water-wise landscaping techniques around their homes, too.

ENTRADA MAKES A smart decision TO GO WATER-WISE.



Challenge

With less than 8 inches of rainfall in an average year, St. George is one of the driest areas in the state. Booming development in the area has caused many developers to question how long the area's water resources will sustain future growth. Entrada at Snow Canyon, a large, 791-acre development in the area, began looking at ways to reduce water usage per person.

Solution

Rather than implement traditional thirsty landscaping, the development team worked to preserve the area's natural vegetation and conserve water with each new home built. To establish standards among homeowners to implement native plants as part of an aesthetically pleasing landscape, they provided beautiful landscape examples, and tools to help residents preserve the desert environment.

Results

With nearly 200 homes now built, Entrada at Snow Canyon has become a truly unique development in Southern Utah. Because homeowners use drip irrigation systems on their landscapes, they only need to water once every two weeks. By adopting water-conserving principles, Entrada has helped Utahns save millions of gallons of water.

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS THAT CAN HELP YOU SAVE WATER.

- 1. Plan** for a water-wise landscape that is environmentally sound, financially feasible and aesthetically pleasing.
- 2. Analyze The Soil** you have in your landscape. Determining your soil type will help you make informed decisions as to appropriate plants for your yard and how to water them properly.
- 3. Use Appropriate Plants** that do not require much water and are adapted to your soil and our arid climate.
- 4. Use Turf Wisely**, because it can consume a lot of water. Determine how much turf you actually need in your yard and choose a water-wise turf that is appropriate for your area.
- 5. Install An Efficient Irrigation** system that applies water effectively to make every drop count. Make sure your system is applying the proper amount and only when necessary.
- 6. Use Mulch** to reduce evaporation from the soil and to help prevent weeds from growing.
- 7. Maintain It Regularly** to reduce water-wasting and the need for costly, time-consuming maintenance later on.

MORE INFORMATION

To find out more ways you can help Slow The Flow, visit www.conservewater.utah.gov.



Sponsored by the Governor's Water Conservation Team